

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION GUIDE

Senator Lieberman has received inquiries from constituents regarding the devastating March 11, 2011 earthquake in Japan. President Obama has pledged the full support of the United States government, and private organizations are coordinating disaster and humanitarian relief assistance.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Japan and all those affected by this devastating natural disaster, including the thousands of American citizens in Japan. America has no better friend and ally in Asia than Japan, and we in the United States must stand ready to mobilize any assistance we can to help as quickly as possible. The people of the United States stand in solidarity with the people of Japan through the difficult days ahead.

"As chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am also monitoring closely the tsunami warnings that have been issued for parts of the United States, including Hawaii, Alaska, and parts of the West Coast. I urge all Americans in areas potentially affected to heed these advisories, follow the warnings that have been issued, and listen carefully for updates from authorities."

INFORMATION FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN JAPAN

The E-mail for the Consular Task Force is japanemergencyusc@state.gov. Email inquiries are strongly preferred, but constituents may call the State Department's emergency assistance center at **1-888-407-4747**. Calls from outside the U.S. please use **1-202-501-4444**.

Email for inquiries in the tsunami zone overseas outside of Japan is pacifictsunamiusc@state.gov. The most recent information posted on the Embassy Tokyo website is at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/acs/tacs-warden20110312-01.html>.

There has been an updated Travel Warning issued on March 21st announcing that the U.S. government is making available Potassium Iodide as a precautionary measure for U.S. government personnel and dependent residing within locations covered by authorized voluntary departure. Private American citizens are advised to contact their personal physicians or their employer with questions about Potassium Iodide. The text of the message is at: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5398.html.

The U.S. Embassy will continue to update American citizens as the situation develops through its Warden network in Japan. These messages along with other useful information can be viewed on the State Department's web site at <http://travel.state.gov> under "Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami". U.S. citizens in need of emergency assistance, or persons with information about such individuals, can enter information about them through the Task Force Alert link on the Japan Earthquake/Tsunami site on www.travel.state.gov, and provide detailed information about their location and contact information. U.S. citizens in Japan and those concerned about them should monitor the U.S. Department of State website. Additional information is available through the U.S. Embassy Tokyo web site at <http://japan.usembassy.gov>.

International commercial flights are operating in and out of Japan, and the best way for Americans to get on these flights is to work directly with the airlines. In addition, for those who have made it to the airport in Tokyo already, U.S. consular officers will be available at the Narita airport for the next several days. They will be wearing orange vests that read “U.S. Embassy.”

For getting to the airports from various locations in Japan, the State Department has compiled a list of local ground transportation options at:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_5388.html.

Because of lack of demand, the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo has no plans to charter buses from Sendai to Tokyo, and the U.S. government charter flights have been discontinued at this time.

Visa Inquiries - For questions concerning U.S. visas for people (not U.S. citizens) seeking to enter the U.S. from Japan, please contact japanvisainquiries@state.gov. Tokyo, Osaka and Naha Visa Sections are providing only emergency visa appointments. The Fukuoka Visa Section has normal hours and the Sapporo Visa Section is closed until March 21.

EPA continues to monitor radiation levels here in the U.S. The www.epa.gov website now has links to the monitors on the West Coast of the U.S.

DOE released Radiation Monitoring Data from the Fukushima area and information is at <http://blog.energy.gov/content/situation-japan>

For more information, visit the State Department “Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami” web site at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_5378.html

HOW TO DONATE TO JAPANESE DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS

The State Department encourages cash donations. Visit the State Department web site at www.state.gov for a list of charities accepting contributions.

USAID now has an email address for Americans who want to provide assistance (cash donations) to help direct contributions to organizations on the ground: japanhelp@ofda.gov.

USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is coordinating the overall response management and humanitarian assistance effort. AID/OFDA can be reached at RMT_PACTSU@ofda.gov and the telephone number is 202-712-0039.

The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at www.cidi.org is a clearing house for putting people who want to donate to disaster relief missions (either in cash or in-kind) in contact with Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). CIDI has the expertise to match up quickly individual U.S. citizens with public and private entities that can provide support.

A list of recommended charities can be found on the State of Connecticut website by following the link near the top of the page at <http://www.ct.gov>.

AMBASSADOR JOHN ROSS SPEAKES to U.S. CITIZENS – UPDATED

March 22, 2011 at 8:30 am JST

We all recognize the enormous impact that the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, as well as the resulting dangerous situation at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, has had on Japan. The United States is continuing to do everything it can and should do to support our close friends, the people of Japan, as they respond to this disaster. This includes providing humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, technical expertise as well as equipment as requested. The American people have also opened up their hearts. Many have given generously to support the ongoing relief efforts. As President Obama said on March 17, we are confident that Japan will recover and rebuild because of the strength and spirit of the Japanese people.

At the same time, this disaster has had a significant impact on the lives of Americans residing in Japan. The Embassy is working to provide the best possible guidance to U.S. citizens in Japan.

Guidance to U.S. Citizens in Japan: With regard to the nuclear situation, which we know is of concern to U.S. citizens residing in Tokyo and other regions relatively close to the Fukushima power plant, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recommends that U.S. citizens who reside within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant leave the area, or remain indoors as much as possible if departure is not practical. That recommendation is based on the steps that the NRC would recommend if a similar situation had occurred in the United States, in light of the scientific and technical data that the NRC, the Department of Energy, and other technical experts in the U.S. Government have obtained from the Japanese government and from U.S. collection assets in Japan. Outside of that 50-mile area, we are urging American citizens to carefully monitor both our guidelines and the guidelines of the Japanese government.

Departure of Embassy Family Members: Given the extraordinary circumstances, the State Department and Department of Defense (DOD) on March 16 authorized the voluntary departure of eligible family members and non-emergency DOD civilians from Tokyo, Nagoya, Yokohama and the prefectures of Aichi, Chiba, Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Iwate, Kanagawa, Miyagi, Nagano, Niigata, Saitama, Shizuoka, Tochigi, Yamagata, and Yamanashi. Separately, voluntary departure was authorized for eligible family members at Misawa AB (Aomori Prefecture). We took this step out of an abundance of caution, and in order to enable U.S. government officials and the uniformed military to concentrate on the tasks at hand. Our employees remain in country, and we are absolutely open for business – in fact, the number of people working at the Embassy now is much larger than before the earthquake due to the number of experts who have arrived from the United States to augment our operations in these difficult times. We look forward to our dependents returning to Japan once the situation has eased.

Concerns about Radiation: The situation at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Site has naturally raised concerns about how far radioactive contamination might spread, and to what degree. As stated above, the NRC recommends that U.S. citizens who reside within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant leave the area, or remain indoors as much as possible if departure is not practical. Available data indicates that levels of radioactivity at the reactor site itself are variable, but remain very dangerous.

Within the 30-kilometer perimeter established by the Japanese government, aerial measurement data shows the degree of radioactive contamination at ground level varying considerably by location, with the most affected areas thus far stretching to the northwest of the reactor site, well within the 50-mile recommended perimeter.

Farther from the reactor site, radiation monitoring by the Japanese government, U.S. government assets, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) all indicate that levels of radiation measured in Tokyo as well as Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures remain at background levels, well below levels which are dangerous to human health. The Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is providing regular updated radioactivity measurements by prefecture, [available online here](#). This data appears consistent with measurements generated by WHO, the IAEA and the U.S. government. WHO information is available at www.wpro.who.int and IAEA data at www.iaea.org. U.S. government experts have also continuously monitored radiation levels on Embassy grounds since March 14, using sophisticated radiation detection meters including high-volume pump samplers that collect information on a 24-hour basis. We have consistently observed normal background levels of radiation.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Travel Health Precaution as of March 19 states that "At this time, the risk of exposure to radiation and the risk of contamination from radioactive materials are believed to be low, especially for anyone outside a 50-mile radius of the nuclear power plant." See www.cdc.gov for details. The United States government will continue to monitor the situation closely and will advise its citizens of any significant developments.

Potassium Iodide: U.S. citizens can consult CDC guidance on the use of potassium iodide (KI) in the event of a radiological emergency, available [online here](#). U.S. citizens are also encouraged to monitor information provided by Japanese authorities regarding the use and availability of KI. On March 21, consistent with NRC guidelines that apply to such a situation in the United States, the U.S. Government decided to make KI available as a precautionary measure for U.S. Government personnel and family members residing in the areas of Japan for which voluntary departure of family members is also authorized. The recipients of the medicine have been told they should consume it only after specific instructions from the U.S. Government. There is no indication that it will become advisable to take KI, but it has been provided out of an abundance of caution to be used only upon direction, if a change in circumstances were to warrant. In the event of a radiological release, sheltering in place or safely departing affected areas remain the most effective means of protection.

For private U.S. citizens seeking information about KI, we advise you to contact your doctor or employer. Should you need further assistance contact the Department of State by emailing JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov or calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

Radiation and Food Safety: Japanese government entities have reported elevated levels of radioactivity found in certain foodstuffs, including milk and certain vegetables, produced in areas relatively close to the Fukushima reactor site. Specifically, the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has announced that radiation levels that exceeded legal limits were detected in milk produced in the Fukushima area and in certain vegetables in Ibaraki. The ministry has requested the Bureau of Sanitation at the Fukushima Prefectural Office, after conducting an investigation of the relevant information, to take necessary measures, such as identifying the provider of these samples and places where the same lots were distributed and banning sales based on the Food Hygiene Law. We expect Japanese authorities will continue to monitor the situation closely and continue to share information publicly, while taking any necessary remedial action. Some useful information on food safety aspects as well as other related topics is [available from the WHO online](#).

The Situation at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Site: As has been widely reported in the Japanese and international media, the Japanese government is dealing with a significant crisis at the Fukushima reactor site and is putting utmost efforts into taking immediate steps to avoid further deterioration of the site, while preparing for a longer-term process of more permanent remediation. The United States government will continue to monitor the situation closely and will advise its citizens residing in Japan of any significant developments that could impact health or safety.

Leading U.S. experts from the NRC, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. military are in place in Japan, cooperating directly with Japanese authorities to help contain the damage at the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors. They are monitoring technical aspects and engaging with Japanese officials on efforts to cool the reactors at Fukushima, as well as regarding the health impacts of radiation. We are sharing critical expertise, equipment, and technology so that the courageous responders on the scene have the benefit of American teamwork and support. Data and ideas are being shared, and we look forward to continuing to work side-by-side with our Japanese partners in helping them deal with this problem. The situation at the site continues to be fluid; one source of information is press releases from [Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency](#).

Travel within Japan and to Overseas Destinations: Commercial flights have resumed at all major airports in Japan, except Sendai Airport, and commercial seats continue to be available. In Tokyo, most public transportation including trains and subways are operating. Many roads have been damaged in northern Japan, particularly in Miyagi Prefecture where government checkpoints have been established on damaged roadways. In Iwate Prefecture, toll road highways are restricted to emergency vehicles only. Some information on major highways and other infrastructure is available at www.mlit.go.jp.

Electricity Supply: Rolling power outages continue in the Tokyo Metropolitan area and areas in northeast Japan affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Please monitor the [Tokyo Electric Power Company website](#) and local news media for specific information and schedules for the planned outages. Radio stations in the Tokyo area that have emergency information in English include the U.S. Armed Forces station at 810AM and InterFM (76.1FM).

UPDATE ON TOKYO WATER

(Posted March 25, 9 a.m. JST)

The United States Government advises American citizens that, in accordance with guidelines that apply to water in the United States and based on analysis of tap water samples for radioactive iodine on March 24, 2011, the water in Tokyo is safe for drinking.

U.S. Government officials are consulting with health experts and radiation experts, in both the United States and Japan, and are continuously monitoring the situation.

WARDEN MESSAGE

Availability of Potassium Iodide Tablets

(Updated March 28, 3 p.m. JST)

As a precautionary measure, the U.S. Embassy is continuing to make potassium iodide (KI) tablets available to private U.S. citizens who have not been able to obtain it from their physician, employer, or other sources. We do not recommend that anyone should take KI at this time. There are risks associated with taking KI. It should only be taken on the advice of emergency management officials, public health officials or your doctor. For more information about KI, see this fact sheet from the Centers for Disease Control, or contact your doctor.

At this time, the tablets are available Monday through Friday (until further notice) at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo at 1-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and at the New Sanno Hotel at 4-12-20, Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday (until further notice) there is also distribution at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Allotments of KI tablets will be provided only upon presentation of a valid U.S. passport. If you do not have a valid passport, please contact the U.S. Embassy at 03-3224-5000. An allotment of tablets will also be made available to a U.S. citizen for his/her non-citizen immediate family members (spouse and children) upon presentation of a valid foreign passport and satisfactory evidence of relationship. Each family member age 18 and over must appear in person and sign a liability waiver form in order to receive their allotment.

Please monitor the State Department's travel website for the most updated information. Should you need further assistance, contact the Department of State by emailing JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov or calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

Safety of Tap Water

The United States Government advises American citizens that, in accordance with guidelines that apply to water in the United States and based on analysis of tap water samples for radioactive iodine on March 24, 2011, the water in Tokyo is safe for drinking. U.S. Government officials are consulting with health experts and radiation experts, in both the United States and Japan, and are continuously monitoring the situation. If more information becomes available, we will share it with you on the Embassy Web site.

COMMUNICATION/FLIGHTS/COUNSELING SERVICES

How to Communicate with Your Family in the United States

We encourage you to try to contact your family and friends. Possible ways to inform your family of your situation:

1. While there have been disruptions in communications in Japan, including the interruption of internet and mobile telephone service, we encourage you to continue your efforts to be in contact with your loved one(s) using SMS texting and other social media (e.g., FaceBook, My Space, Twitter, etc) that your loved one(s) may use. Other possible ways to inform your family of your situation:

2. **Cell Phone Messages**

If you have a cell phone in Japan, you can post messages via your cell phone provider. Family and friends who know your cell phone company can check the cell phone company's website below and type in your phone number to see any message you have left. The available areas are Aomori, Miyagi, Yamagata and Fukushima prefectures.

- For Docomo users: <http://dengon.docomo.ne.jp/top.cgi>
- For KDDI (Ezweb) users: <http://dengon.ezweb.ne.jp/>
- For Softbank users: <http://dengon.softbank.ne.jp/>
- For Wilcom users: <http://dengon.willcom-inc.com/dengon/Top.do>
- For Emobile users: <http://dengon.emnet.ne.jp/>

3. **NTT emergency voice message board:**

Dial 171.

Family Links website of the International Committee of the Red Cross:

This website provides a way for you to inform your relatives that you are alive.

Flight Information for Narita and Haneda Airports

Flights at Haneda Airport and Narita Airport are departing with some delays. For the most up-to-date flight information, we recommend you contact your airline. Limousine buses and trains are running with limited service. The U.S. Embassy recommends that travelers' budget additional travel time to reach these airports.

Flight Information from Fukushima Airport

Fukushima Airport has nine flights available to Haneda, Itami, Nagoya, and Shin-Chitose airports. For ANA flight information and reservations, contact (0570-029-222) or visit www.ana.co.jp. For AirDo Airlines flight information and reservations, contact (0120-057-333) or visit www.airdo.jp.

For Information in Japanese about Missing Persons

Miyagi Prefecture: 022-221-2000

Iwate Prefecture: 0120-801-471

Fukushima Prefecture: 0120-510-186, 090-8424-4207, 090-8424-4208

Counseling Services for JET Program Participants

[JET Program website](#)

AJET Peer Support Group: 050-5534-5566

Other Counseling Services - Tokyo English Life Line (TELL): Tel: 03-5774-0992

www.telljp.com

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Japan's National Police Agency reported 10,035 people dead, 17,443 missing, and 2775 injured. Approximately 202,000 are being housed in shelters.

Video and text information on Ambassador Roos's visit to Miyagi Prefecture and his description of assistance provided by the U.S. military forces have been posted on the Embassy's web site: <http://japan.usembassy.gov>.

U.S. government officials are continuously monitoring the water in Tokyo for contamination. The water has currently been found safe for drinking.

The earthquake and its aftermath may become the world's most expensive natural disaster on record, with Japanese officials saying losses could total up to \$309 billion. The World Bank estimates that reconstruction could take five years.

Japan will ask bottled water makers to increase production and supply. Japan asked the United States about possible donations of bottled water to satisfy the shortage.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and consulates continue to operate at full capacity. A team of approximately 100 additional personnel are operating out of Embassy in Tokyo to respond to the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami and to the nuclear crisis.

An updated fact sheet on U.S. Government assistance to Japan to date can be found at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/p/tp-20110325-75.html>

FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT STATUS

Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano said residents located 12-18 miles from the Fukushima plant should prepare to evacuate voluntarily, an increase from the previous 12 mile radius. Edano said extending the distance for recommended evacuation does not mean the risk of a radiation leak has increased.

Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) may raise the International Nuclear and Radiological Event rating for Fukushima to level six of seven, or a "serious accident."

NISA said all containment systems could have been "compromised" at the reactor in Unit No. 3. A breach of the containment system significantly increases the risk of leakage of radioactive material.

NISA, Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held their first daily meeting for technical exchange on plant conditions. TEPCO's priorities are to cool the core and stabilize the pressure vessel at Unit 1.

Japan will begin using fresh water to try to cool reactors and spent fuel rod pools, because sea water causes salt build-up and corrosion. Two U.S. Navy barges from U.S. bases in Japan will ship 525,000 gallons of fresh water.

Passengers from Japan set off radiation detectors upon arrival in Beijing and Chicago. Two were hospitalized in China.

Cesium was found in a vegetable grown in Tokyo for the first time, in amounts exceeding legal limits.

CONSULAR ISSUES

Ambassador Roos met the father of the deceased JET Program English teacher. A consular officer will attend the cremation scheduled for March 26.

Embassy Tokyo has issued information for Parents and caretakers about radioactive iodine in the Tokyo water supply. The text of the message is at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/p/tp-20110324-73.html>.

Embassy Tokyo's web site also has a list of web sites providing information on radiation and food and water safety. The information is at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/p/tp-20110323-70.html>.

Ambassador Roos provided a video message and Embassy Tokyo issued a Warden Message covering the current situation in Japan and guidance for American citizens. The Message addressed concerns about radiation, potassium iodide, radiation and food safety, among other concerns. The video and Warden Message are on the Embassy's web site: <http://japan.usembassy.gov>.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE

The UN Disaster Assessment Coordination Team will end all assignments in Japan over the next several days.

TRAVEL WARNING – JAPAN – MARCH 21, 2011

This Travel Warning replaces the Travel Warning dated March 18, 2011, in response to the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Department of Energy, and other technical experts in the U.S. Government have reviewed the scientific and technical information they have collected from assets in country, as well as what the Government of Japan has disseminated. Consistent with the NRC guidelines that would apply to such a situation in the United States, we are recommending, as a precaution, that U.S. citizens within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant evacuate the area or to take shelter indoors if safe evacuation is not practical.

On March 21, 2011, consistent with NRC guidelines that apply to such a situation in the United States, the U.S. Government is making available Potassium Iodide (KI) as a precautionary measure for United States Government personnel and dependents residing within Nagoya (Aichi Prefecture), Tokyo (Tokyo Capital Region), Yokohama (Kanagawa Prefecture), and the prefectures of Akita, Aomori, Chiba, Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Iwate, Miyagi, Nagano, Niigata, Saitama, Shizuoka, Tochigi, Yamagata, and Yamanashi. The KI should only be consumed after specific instruction from the United States Government.

While there is no indication that it will become advisable to take KI, out of an abundance of caution the United States Government is making it available to its personnel and family members to be used only upon direction if a change in circumstances were to warrant. No-one should take KI at this time. In the event of a radiological release, sheltering in place or departing the affected area remain the primary means of protection.

There are numerous factors, including weather, wind direction and speed, as well as the exact status of the reactor problem, that affect the risk of the possibility of lower-level radioactive materials reaching greater distances. Previous notification to U.S. citizens to leave areas within 50 miles of the reactors stands. In the event they cannot evacuate that area, they are advised to seek shelter and remain sheltered. For private U.S. citizens seeking information about KI, we advise you to contact your doctor or employer. Please monitor our website at http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_5378.html for the most updated information.

Should you need further assistance contact the Department of State by emailing JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov or calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

On March 17, the United States NRC recommends that U.S. citizens who live within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant evacuate the area or take shelter indoors if safe evacuation is not practical. The State Department strongly urges U.S. citizens to defer travel to Japan at this time and those in Japan should consider departing.

Also, on March 17, the Department of State authorized the voluntary departure from Japan of eligible family members of U.S. government personnel in Tokyo (Tokyo Capital Region), Nagoya (Aichi Prefecture), Yokohama (Kanagawa Prefecture), and the prefectures of Akita, Chiba, Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Iwate, Miyagi, Nagano, Niigata, Saitama, Shizuoka, Tochigi, Yamagata, and Yamanashi. Separately, because of infrastructure damage from the earthquake and resulting tsunami, voluntary authorized departure is authorized for the eligible family members at Misawa AB (Aomori Prefecture).

On March 16, the State Department authorized the voluntary departure from Japan of eligible family members of U.S. government personnel assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, the U.S. Consulate in Nagoya, the Foreign Service Institute Field School in Yokohama and the prefectures of Akita, Aomori, Chiba, Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Iwate, Miyagi, Nagano, Niigata, Saitama, Shizuoka, Tochigi, Yamagata, and Yamanashi. U.S. citizens should defer all travel to the evacuation zone around Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami and tourism and non-essential travel to the rest of Japan at this time.

Commercial flights have resumed at all airports that were closed by the earthquake, except Sendai Airport, and commercial seats are available at the time of this posting. In Tokyo, most public transportation including trains and subways are operating. Many roads have been damaged in the Tokyo area and in northern Japan, particularly in the Miyagi prefecture where government checkpoints have been established on damaged roadways. In Iwate Prefecture, toll road highways are restricted to emergency vehicles only.

The Department of State is working to assist U.S. citizens to depart from affected areas. U.S. citizens in Tokyo should review our [Japan Earthquake/Pacific Tsunami webpage](#) for updated departure-related information. Hardships caused by the March 11 earthquakes and tsunami continues to cause severe difficulties for people in the areas affected by the disaster. Temporary shortages of water and food supplies may occur in affected areas of Japan due to power and transportation disruptions.

Rolling power outages continue in the Tokyo Metropolitan area and areas in northeast Japan affected by the earthquake and tsunami. The Tokyo Electric Power Company reports that three-hour outages may occur in various regions, including Tokyo. Please monitor the Tokyo Electric Power Company website, and local news media for specific information and schedules for the planned outages. Radio stations in the Tokyo area that have emergency information in English include the U.S. Armed Forces station at 810AM and InterFM (76.1FM).

Strong aftershocks are likely for weeks following a massive earthquake such as this one. The American Red Cross recommends that in the event of aftershocks, persons should move to open spaces away from walls, windows, buildings, and other structures that may collapse, and should be alert to the danger of falling debris.

If you are indoors, drop, cover and hold on: if possible, seek cover under a sturdy desk or table, hold on, and protect your eyes by pressing your face against your arm. If there is no table or desk nearby, sit on the floor against an interior wall away from windows, bookcases or tall furniture that could fall on you. Avoid damaged buildings and downed power lines. Great care should be used with matches, lighters, candles, or any open flame due to the possibility of disrupted gas lines.

Due to the continuing possibility of strong aftershocks, Japan remains at risk for further tsunamis. Japanese authorities have issued a warning for people to stay away from low-lying coastal areas. If a tsunami alert is issued by Japanese authorities, evacuate immediately to higher ground. Further information about what you can do if a tsunami occurs can be found at the [National Weather Service's Tsunami Ready website](#), and the [International Tsunami Information Center's website](#). Current tsunami alerts can be found at the [Japan Meteorological Agency website](#), and the website of the [Pacific Tsunami Warning Center](#).

The U.S. Embassy continues to deploy consular assistance teams where needed; these teams are actively working with our taskforce and local authorities to locate U.S. citizens, visit shelters and assistance centers, and help U.S. citizens identify public and commercial transportation options away from affected areas. U.S. citizens requiring emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of State via e-mail or through the emergency contact numbers below.

U.S. citizens in Japan should contact family and friends in the United States to confirm their well-being at the earliest opportunity. Where internet and telephone services are not available, it may be possible to contact people using SMS (Cell text message) or other forms of social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

For the latest U.S. Government information on the situation in Japan, please go to the Department of State's [Consular Affairs' website](#).

Information about nuclear radiation exposure risks can be obtained from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and from the Centers for Disease Control.

U.S. citizens in Japan are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulates. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy/Consulates to contact them in case of emergency.

Special Update as of March 17: Relief for Japanese and Other Nationals from the Pacific Stranded due to the Earthquakes and Tsunami

USCIS Reminds Japanese Nationals Impacted by Recent Disaster of Available Immigration Benefits

Introduction

In light of the recent earthquakes and tsunami, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) reminds Japanese nationals of certain U.S. immigration benefits available upon request.

USCIS understands that a natural disaster can affect an individual's ability to establish or maintain lawful immigration status. The following questions and answers address temporary relief measures available to nationals of Japan.

Questions and Answers

Q1. What are my options if I am a Japanese national who entered the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP)?

A1. There is no provision under U.S. law to extend the stay of an individual admitted under the VWP. However, if you were admitted under the VWP and are unable to return because of the recent disasters in Japan, you may request satisfactory departure. If granted, you will have up to 30 days to leave the United States without penalty for exceeding your authorized stay. If you are at an airport, please contact the U.S. Customs and Border Protection office at the airport. All others please visit the [USCIS local office](#).

Q2. I am a Japanese national and cannot return to Japan at this time due to the disaster. I have a non-immigrant visa in my passport (and was not admitted under the VWP). My allowed time to stay in the United States has either expired or is about to expire. What are my options? Can I work during my stay in the United States?

A2. You may file a request to change or extend your nonimmigrant status if you still meet the existing criteria for your specific nonimmigrant category. For example:

- If you are a B-1 or B-2 visitor, you may apply for a six-month extension on the basis that you are unable to return to Japan at this time due to the events following the disaster. However, you would not be authorized to work or attend school in the United States.

- If you are no longer able to extend your non-immigrant status, USCIS will consider requests to change your status to B-1 or B-2.

Typically, an extension application must be filed before the authorized stay expires. However, USCIS may accept applications for change of status or extension of stay if your authorized admission has expired.

To change or extend your nonimmigrant status you must submit:

- A [Form I-539, Application To Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status](#),
- The \$290 filing fee (no waiver of this filing fee is available), and
- Evidence establishing that the events that began March 11, 2011, are the basis for your inability to return to Japan prior to the expiration of your authorized period of admission.

If you were in a lawful, nonimmigrant status on March 11, 2011, you will be excused for filing late until May 11, 2011. After May 11, 2011, eligibility for delayed filing will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q3. I am a Japanese national granted parole to enter the United States temporarily. However, I am unable to return to Japan due to the disaster and my parole has expired or is about to expire. What are my options? Can I work during my stay in the United States?

A3. If you are a Japanese national who has already been paroled into the United States by USCIS, you may apply for an extension of your parole (“re-parole”) by making an InfoPass appointment at your local USCIS field office. The length of the extension is at the USCIS district director’s discretion, but normally will not exceed six months. To qualify for re-parole, you will need to demonstrate that you were or are currently prevented from returning to Japan before the expiration of your current or last authorized parole. You will also need to present a genuine, expired or unexpired Form I-94 that shows an expiration date between March 11, 2011, and May 11, 2011. If your period of authorized parole was current on March 11, 2011, you will be excused for filing late up to May 11, 2011. After May 11, 2011, eligibility for delayed filing will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Once your parole has been extended, you may apply for employment authorization by filing Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. For instructions on how to apply, please refer to the filing instructions on Form I-765.

Q4. I am a Japanese national granted advance parole to travel outside of the United States. I cannot return to the United States from Japan due to the disaster, and my allowed time is expiring or about to expire. What are my options?

A4. USCIS grants Japanese nationals currently living outside of the United States an automatic extension of advance parole until May 11, 2011. Ports of entry have been instructed to accept the auto-extended Form I-512, Authorization for Parole of Aliens into the United States. Affected individuals need not bring any additional documentation with them to the airport.

Q5. I am a Japanese national F-1 student currently enrolled in school in the United States. Due to the disaster, I can no longer cover the cost of my education. What are my options? Can I work during my stay in the United States?

A5. If your family in Japan is funding your studies, you may be eligible for work authorization based on severe economic hardship. According to the regulations at 8 CFR 214.2(f)(9)(II)(C) and (D), F-1 academic students may request off-campus employment authorization based on severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond their control, such as changes in the financial condition of their source of support. If your family is encountering difficulties with funding your studies in the United States due to the recent natural disaster in Japan, you may apply for employment authorization based on severe economic hardship. To qualify, you must establish that you:

- Have been an F-1 academic student for at least one full academic year;
- Are in good academic standing and carrying a full course load; and
- Need employment authorization to avoid severe economic hardship.

You will need to obtain a recommendation from your Designated School Official (DSO). If your DSO agrees that you should receive employment authorization based upon severe economic hardship, he or she will update your SEVIS record with a recommendation that will be reflected on your Form I-20. Your DSO will need to sign and date your new I-20. Once you obtain this recommendation you must file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with your properly endorsed Form I-20, according to the filing instructions on the form. Although the filing fee for Form I-765 is \$380, you may apply to have that fee waived due to your inability to pay. For guidance on how to file a fee waiver request, please visit www.uscis.gov/feewaiver.

Q6. I am a Japanese national whose case is pending with USCIS. I need my case expedited due to the recent disaster in Japan. What are my options?

A6. Given the need for immediate relief, USCIS will expedite certain applications and petitions. Standard requirements for security checks remain in place under expedited procedures.

If a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident requests expedited processing of a Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative, the case will be expedited where a visa number is readily available.

Japanese nationals with benefit applications pending in the United States who must travel quickly for emergent reasons will need to apply for advance authorization for parole to return to the United States. USCIS will expedite the processing of Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, in such cases, where we have been advised of the emergent need to travel.

Q7. Where can I find more information about immigration relief benefits?

A7. For more information on USCIS humanitarian programs, visit www.uscis.gov or call the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.

Red Cross - Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami

Disaster Response Report 4 - March 17, 2011

BACKGROUND

On March 11, a record 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck near the Japanese city of Sendai. It generated a powerful 32-foot tsunami which struck northern Japan, surged a quarter of a mile inland and caused widespread destruction to coastal areas and communities. High magnitude aftershocks continue to hit the area. There was also damage to area nuclear power plants, causing a third emergency, the threat of nuclear radiation exposure.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Government of Japan has prioritized assistance to the 430,000 people sheltering in evacuation centers. Although delivery of humanitarian aid has increased significantly, the lack of fuel continues to be a major obstacle.
- Cold weather and snow continues to hamper relief operations and worsen conditions for survivors. The government reports that an estimated 23,000 people remain isolated in the worst affected coastal areas of the northeast.
- The Japanese Red Cross continues to focus on providing relief and assistance to the hundreds of thousands of people who have been evacuated due to the nuclear emergency, earthquake and tsunami.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE¹

Deaths	5,178	Government of Japan – 3/17/11
People Missing	8,913	Government of Japan – 3/17/11
People in Shelters	430,000	Government of Japan – 3/17/11
American Red Cross Commitment	1 advisor \$10 million	American Red Cross – 3/15/11

¹ Figures remain preliminary and are expected to change

CURRENT SITUATION

- The Government of Japan has prioritized the opening of main roads, airports and seaports for the delivery of aid supplies to the affected areas. However, a lack of fuel is making it difficult to deliver to each evacuation center.
- Snow and freezing temperatures have raised additional concerns for people who are still unreached by rescue workers as well as those living in evacuation centers, where heating is insufficient.
- There is increasing concern about the health of the evacuees, especially the elderly, as there is a lack of medical supplies and heating in the shelters. Doctors report diarrhea and other illnesses caused by the freezing weather, lack of clean water and poor sanitation.

- The UN reports that approximately 451,000 homes remain without electricity and 1.6 million homes are still without water.
- The government has ordered temporary shelters to be built and is working with the private sector merchants and food producers make food stocks available and to raise production levels to meet needs. It has mobilized a substantial amount of supplies at logistics hubs close to the affected areas. However, coordination and transportation is a major challenge.

GLOBAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT NETWORK RESPONSE

Japanese Red Cross

- Volunteers continue to provide support to those affected. Under the nation's response plan, the role of the Japanese Red Cross is to provide healthcare, emotional support activities, relief items and family linking services to support those affected, including those in government shelters.
- During the response, the Japanese Red Cross has deployed 115 medical response teams with approximately 800 doctors, counselors, nurses and support staff. They are operating field and mobile health clinics providing medical and emotional support to affected people.
- The Japanese Red Cross also has a specialized psychological support team operating in Ishinomaki hospital in Miyagi prefecture, helping survivors who have lost loved ones in the disaster.
- A number of the Japanese Red Cross branches are equipped with special equipment to respond to nuclear, biological or chemical disasters in support of the government. In addition, there is a specialist medical team at Nagasaki Red Cross hospital that is trained to treat effects of radiation exposure.
- The Japanese Red Cross has more than two million registered volunteers and 47 chapters, and operates 104 hospitals, 26 nursing schools and 212 blood centers nationwide.
- The Japanese Red Cross is reconnecting family members through the International Committee of the Red Cross website – www.familylinks.icrc.org.

American Red Cross

- The American Red Cross has committed an initial \$10 million to the Japanese Red Cross to assist its ongoing efforts to provide medical care and relief assistance following the earthquake and tsunami.
- The American Red Cross has provided an advisor to a high-level support and liaison team to the Japanese Red Cross. The group is led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and consists of representatives from several Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies.
- The American Red Cross is in direct communication with the Japanese Red Cross as they update their needs based on ongoing assessments and response activities.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation)

- The International Federation's Asia Pacific Disaster Management Unit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is leading the International Federation's coordination activities in support of the Japanese Red Cross response.

UNITED NATIONS AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Government of Japan

- The Government of Japan is leading the response and has mobilized thousands of troops, planes and ships for a massive operation. In addition to search and rescue efforts, assisted by a number of international search and rescue teams, it is also operating shelters, deploying emergency medical teams and providing food and relief supplies.

U.S. Government

- The U.S. Government has provided two search and rescue teams to assist response efforts as well as two nuclear experts. The U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance has deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team which continues to coordinate with the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team.
- The U.S. military has deployed ships to the area to assist the relief effort and provide emergency supplies.

United Nations (UN)

- The United Nations has deployed its Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team to assist the Government of Japan by coordinating the international urban search and rescue teams and organizing incoming international relief goods and services in order to limit unsolicited contributions.